

Sanitized - Approved For Release : C Report from Washington

BY WALTER TROHAN

CHIEF OF CHICAGO TRIBUNE'S WASHINGTON BUREAU
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WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 — There is cause for concern, if not for fear, in the fact that Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy was able to pick up his telephone and get a million dollar pledge from "a personal friend" to meet the final ransom demand of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro for the release of the 1,113 Bay of Pigs prisoners.



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If Bobby can get a million dollars so easily to get his brother, President Kennedy, somewhat off the hook for the 1961 invasion fiasco, Americans can wonder how much he might get if he turns on his power to appeal for campaign funds for his brother's reelection bid in 1964?

And Bobby made the ransom pharmaceuticals deductible contributions on corporate income taxes because they were paid to the Red Cross. But they were by no means charitable gifts but ransom or blackmail paid to a communist chief of state, who had been aiming missiles at American cities only a couple of months back. The internal revenue service estimates these deductions will cost American taxpayers about \$20,000,000.

Americans can wonder if Bobby might move one way or another to make 1964 contributions to the Kennedy reelection campaign tax deductible, under some theory that charity begins in the Kennedy home which, except for week-ends, is the White House. One of his predecessors did rule almost thirty years ago that the wife of the then President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, could make charitable deductions beyond the legally authorized 15 per cent limit.

Name of Contributor Being Withheld

THE NAME OF THE MAN who made the million dollar contribution is being withheld, at his request, by the attorney general. There would seem to be no defense for withholding the man's name. This was no ordinary charitable contribution, but ransom; and it was no official duty that Bobby was performing, but a somewhat frantic effort to get his brother, the President, off the hook for what the attorney general acknowledged was "a mistake" in Cuba.

The man must be identified, particularly since John [Jake the Barber] Factor, who contributed \$20,000 to the 1960 Kennedy campaign, was granted a Christmas eve pardon for a mail fraud conviction. Bobby, who managed the campaign, personally investigated the clemency plea by which Factor escaped deportation to his native England.

Puts Cost at 350 Million Dollars

BOBBOY TOLD THOSE who contributed the 53 million dollars worth of drugs, food and money that his brother made a mistake, but he didn't put any price tag on the Cuban fiasco. Rep. Craig Hosmer [R., Cal.], put a price tag of almost 350 millions on the error. His itemization follows:

Army, navy, air force, marine corps mobilization	\$ 85,000,000
Navy blockade and fleet activities	32,000,000
Maneuver U. S. S. Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. to blockade vanguard [including demurrage for fleet standing by]	66,000

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Guantanamo Reinforcements—men and material	16,750,000
Guantanamo dependents—evacuation and return	1,400,000
Reserve units—mobilize and demobilize	26,600,000
Aerial surveillance—Cuban bases and shipping	5,250,000
Air defense activities—southern and Gulf coasts	18,000,000
Central intelligence agency activities	6,500,000
Florida and southern states military bases—aditions and improvements	11,800,000
Killed and wounded — survivors' compensation, etc.	1,200,000
Activities of miscellaneous civilian departments and agencies [including White House and attorney general public relations activities]	1,800,000
Ransom	53,000,000
Rail, air, marine freight on ransom; handling costs	9,000,000
1,113 prisoners, approx. 1000 relatives—evacuation, rehabilitation, 1st year's public assistance	2,600,000
Ransom—60 sick and wounded prisoners	2,900,000
Federal and state tax revenue loss on ransom "gifts"	35,000,000
Miscellaneous and covert expenditures	8,534,000
Write off: Cost of unsuccessful Bay of Pigs operation	20,000,000
First year interest on federal debt increase allocable to Kennedy's error	10,000,000
Total direct cost, Kennedy's error	\$349,400,000
James B. Donovan, New-York attorney, who headed the ransom negotiations, credited the efforts of Bobby for raising the 2.9 millions in cash which Castro demanded at the last moment. If Bobby can raise a million dollars thru personal friendship, what can he raise if he brings the full power of his awesome legal office to bear in behalf of his brother in 1964—or of himself in 1968—perhaps?	

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